

school, when he told me the story about how my mother died and how my mother's wish was what it came to be, that I be made a part of the Byrd family.

So my uncle—he was a patient, quiet man—toiled in the dark pits of the West Virginia coal mines without any complaint. I never saw him sit at the table and complain about the food—never. He always thought to save me that cake. And, like good fathers everywhere, he encouraged me always to do my best. He encouraged me in my school work. He and she always wanted to see my report card and there was a line on that report card designated “deportment.” He always looked at that as well. He wanted to see how I behaved in school. And he always told me that if I got a whipping in school, I could be sure of getting another one at home.

So he encouraged me in my school work. He did not want me to follow him into the mines which were, in those days, just as dangerous as they had been in 1907, in Monongah.

In all my years, I say to these wonderful young people and to those who are watching out there watching this Senate Chamber today, in all those years I never heard him use God's name in vain. I never heard him complain about his lot in life. He simply toiled on, doing the best he could, a man of few words and few affectionate gestures, but loving nonetheless.

In any event, the first Father's Day was observed on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, WA. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea of a national observance of Father's Day, but it was not until 1966 that President Lyndon Johnson signed a Presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday in June as the national Father's Day. In 1972, President Nixon established the permanent national observance of Father's Day.

The Bible admonishes us: “Honor thy father and thy mother.” And on this day in June we honor our fathers with gifts, cards, and time spent together as a family. The rest of the year we can only hope to honor our fathers by our own hard work, as we try to live up to the dreams—yes, the dreams—that they have for us.

I think of Kipling's lines at this moment. I think they are quite appropriate:

Our Fathers in a wondrous age,
Ere yet the Earth was small,
Ensured to us an heritage,
And doubted not at all
That we, the children of their heart,
Which then did beat so high,
In later time should play like part
For our posterity.
Then, fretful, murmur not they gave
So great a charge to keep,
Nor dream that awestruck Time shall save
Their labour while we sleep.
Dear-bought and clear, a thousand year,
Our fathers' title runs.
Make we likewise their sacrifice,
Defrauding not our sons.

Mr. President, I close with a short poem by Grace V. Watkins entitled “I

Heard My Father Pray.” I offer it in honor of Titus Dalton Byrd, my Dad, who is looking down from Heaven.

Once in the night I heard my father pray.
The house was sleeping, and the dark above

The hill was wide. I listened to him say
Such phrases of devotion and of love,
So far beyond his customary fashion,
I held my breath in wonder. Then he spoke
My name with such tenderness and such compassion,

Forgotten fountains in my heart awoke.
That night I learned that love is not a thing

Measured by eloquence of hand or tongue,
That sometimes those who voice no whispering

Of their affection harbor love as strong,
As powerful and deathless as the sod,
But mentioned only when they talk with God.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CORNYN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE FAA REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague Senator SPECTER to engage the distinguished chairman of the Commerce Committee in a colloquy regarding a proposal to allow airports increased flexibility with the use of the Passenger Facility Charge, PFC, revenues.

Mr. President, as you know, many airports are impacted by the downturn in the aviation industry. In my State, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania is working with US Airways to maintain its presence at both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia International Airports. Our activities in Pennsylvania include efforts to reduce costs in order to make our airports even more competitive.

The amendment that I filed today would change current law to allow airports increased flexibility in the use of the Passenger Facility Charge revenues so that an airport may choose to use such funds to help retire outstanding debt. I believe that this change would be an important tool for airports, which could benefit from the option of using the funds they receive more effectively.

According to information provided to me, this change, if implemented at Pittsburgh International Airport, would result in millions of dollars in immediate cost savings for both the airport and tenant airplanes operating there.

It is my understanding that Chairman MCCAIN is aware of this issue but has concerns about the approach taken by this amendment. I am also informed, however, that the Chairman

indicated that he plans to examine issues related to airport financing and competitiveness in the current aviation industry environment.

I would like to inquire of Chairman MCCAIN if he would agree to examine this issue and continue discussions to identify solutions that can allow airports to be more competitive in this challenging aviation industry environment.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I rise as a cosponsor of the amendment offered by my colleague Senator SANTORUM that would provide airports with increased flexibility in the use of their Passenger Facility Charge funds. As Senator SANTORUM mentioned, we are working hard to assist US Airways and to keep the company's large presence in Pennsylvania with its hubs in both Pittsburgh and Philadelphia. Earlier this week I hosted a meeting with US Airways CEO David Siegel in my office that included Governor Rendell, Senator SANTORUM, most of our delegation from the House of Representatives, as well as local elected officials. The purpose of this meeting was to work with US Airways to make our Pennsylvania hubs in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia more cost competitive so that those airports can remain critical assets to US Airways. If enacted, proposals such as our amendment will be of great help to Pennsylvania and will be available for use by other airports throughout the Nation.

Mr. MCCAIN. I thank the distinguished Senators from Pennsylvania for filing this amendment. I am aware of interest in proposals to allow increased flexibility in the use of Passenger Facility Charges as well as other Federal revenues. The Commerce Committee does plan to continue its examination of appropriate Federal policy measures that might address the concerns raised by my colleagues. I look forward to working with my colleagues on this issue.

Mr. SANTORUM. I thank Chairman MCCAIN for agreeing to work with us on this important issue.

Mr. SPECTER. I also thank the chairman.

THE HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I am very proud today to join my colleague, the Senator from Maine, Ms. COLLINS, in introducing the Homeland Security Grant Enhancement Act of 2003. This legislation will bring much-needed coordination to the fund application process for our first responders and State and local officials.

The coordination of grant programs called for by this bill will go a long way to make certain that those who will be first called upon to deal with a threat to the security of the United States will be better prepared to face it. By enacting the Homeland Security Grant Enhancement Act, we can free